



## PUBLIC SAFETY AND WIRELESS NETWORKS

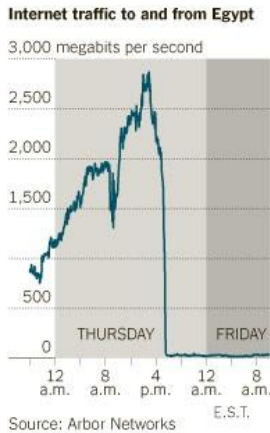
An International Relations Perspective

### THREE MAIN POINTS:

1. In the instance the FCC takes any action on this issue, it should consider this issue in the broader context of foreign policy.
2. Public safety is often pretext for shutdowns in other countries.
3. American foreign policy is very critical of foreign countries that block/shutdown/slow communication networks.

## Precipitating Events

January 28, 2011 (Egypt)



February 15, 2011 (US)



“Some governments use internet governance issues as a cover for pushing an agenda that would justify restricting human rights online. We must be wary of such agendas and united in our shared conviction that human rights apply online.”  
-Hilary Clinton, Conference on Internet Freedom, December 8, 2011, The Hague, Netherlands

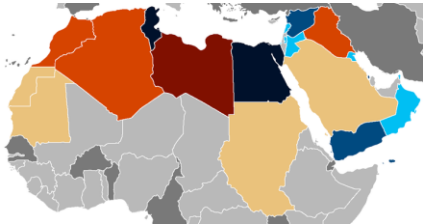
## August 11, 2011 (US)

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)  
Shuts down wireless networks fearing protests



## Public Safety Can Be A Pretext

Iran, February 2012, Mehdi Kahzali jailed for his blog post organizing a protest against parliamentary election process. Charged with “spreading propaganda against the system” “gathering and colluding against national security.



"It is absolutely true that new communication technologies can bolster democratic activism. It is also true that they can be used to sustain government control"



“Now, those who push these plans often do so in the name of security.”

-Hillary Clinton, Conference on Internet Freedom, December 8, 2011, The Hague, Netherlands

Evgeny Morozov, The Social Science Research Council

## Chairman Genachowski:

“Let me be clear: while there are significant opportunities, the FCC and other U.S. government entities have significant concerns regarding China’s conduct on important issues, including restrictions on Internet freedom and openness, inadequate protections for intellectual property, cyber security, international standards, and market access.”

## Commissioner McDowell:

He also told the PLI/FCBA gathering that he opposed the August shutdown of mobile phone service in several subway stations by the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) District, calling it a huge mistake on their part in how they handled it. The action, he said, probably has a net negative effect on public safety. He also said it is important to be very careful not to justify further government strong-arming in this space.

Kirby, Paul, “McDowell Warns about Global Efforts to Regulate the Internet.” TRDaily 12/8/11.

## U.S. Foreign Policy is Critical of Shutdowns

- The U.S. State Department has repeatedly made comments critical of Egypt, Syria, and China
- Hillary Clinton has given several speeches on “Internet Freedom” which emphasize how the international community needs to promote freedom of communication.
- The State Department was openly critical of the arrests of bloggers promoting anti-government views in Syria and Russia

